

Message Text

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73

ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 AEC-11 OMB-01 DRC-01

/160 W

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R 262008Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8346

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

USNMR SHAPE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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VIENNA FOR MBFR DEL

GENEVA FOR CSCE DEL

USNMR SHAPE FOR INTAF

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO GW
SUBJECT: MBFR: GERMAN PRESS COVERAGE INTENSIFIES

REF: BONN 15489 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY. FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU ARTICLE ON ALLIED MBFR POSITION (REFTEL) WAS FOLLOWED UP BY SPATE OF ARTICLES IN OCT. 25 FRG GERMAN PRESS. LATEST ARTICLES, WHICH CLEARLY SHOW SIGNS OF FRG BACKGROUND BRIEFINGS AND LEAKS FROM SOME NATO DELS (SEVERAL ARTICLES ARE DATE-LINED BRUSSELS), REFER TO INTER ALIA INITIAL 15 PERCENT US/SOVIET GROUND FORCE REDUCTIONS, LINK BETWEEN TWO PHASES OF MBFR NEGOTIATIONS, NEED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF GEOGRAPHIC AND OTHER DISPARITIES, TO COVER HUNGARY IN CONSTRAINTS AGREEMENT, AND TO AVOID ARMS CONTROL ZONE LIMITED ESSENTIALLY TO THE GERMAN STATES. THE PRESS CITES FRG SOURCES AS BEING SATISFIED THAT ALLIED NEGOTIATING POSITION WILL NOT ERODE NATO DEFENSE STRATEGY. NEW FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU ARTICLE CONTAINS BOX COMPARING GROUND, AIR AND NAVAL FORCES OF NATO AND WARSAW PACT. EXCERPTS OF REPRESENTATIVE ARTICLES AND BOX ON FORCE COMPARISONS ARE REPORTED BELOW. END SUMMARY.

1. FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU OF OCT. 25 PUBLISHES FOLLOWING NATO/WP FORCE COMPARISON BOX, WHICH ARTICLE SAYS REPRESENTS RESULTS OF RECENT EXAMINATION OF NATO EXPERTS. BEGIN TEXT:

GROUND FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE

NATO (WITH FRANCE	WARSAW PACT (WITH HUNGARY)
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765,000 SOLDIERS	1,035,000 SOLDIERS
20-2/3 DIVISIONS	70 DIVISIONS
6,600 TANKS	23,000 TANKS
2,300 GUNS	6,000 GUNS

AIR FORCES IN TOTAL EUROPE

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NATO	WARSAW PACT
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700 FIGHTERS/INTERCEPTORS	4,800 FIGHTERS/INTERCEPTORS
400 RECONNAISSANCE PLANES	800 RECONNAISSANCE PLANES
1,800 BOMBERS	1,800 BOMBERS

NAVAL FORCES IN NORTH & BALTIC SEAS

NATO WARSAW PACT

-- 3 CRUISERS

-- 2 MISSILE CRUISERS

3 MISSILE DESTROYERS 7 MISSILE DESTROYERS

20 DESTROYERS 45 DESTROYERS

3 MISSILE PATROL BOATS 45 MISSILE PATROL BOATS

50 TORPEDO BOATS 140 TORPEDO BOATS

20 LANDING CRAFTS 65 LANDING CRAFTS

2. FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE (HANS ACHIM WESELOH REPORTING
FROM BRUSSELS): BEGIN TEXT: IN VIEW OF THE ROLE PLAYED
BY THE SOVIETS IN THE MIDDLE EAST WAR, THE
POSITION TO BE TAKEN BY THE NATO COUNTRIES IN THE
MBFR NEGOTIATIONS IN VIENNA WILL BE MARKED BY CAUTION.
DETENTE EUPHORIA HAS VANISHED. NATO QUARTERS HOPE

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USMISSION GENEVA
USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA
USNMR SHAPE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NEAR EAST WILL LEAD TO GROWING
UNDERSTANDING ON THE PART OF WEST EUROPEANS FOR PURSUING
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CREDIBLE AND EFFECTIVE SECURITY POLICY. SEVERAL OPTIONS
KEEP THE NATO COUNTRIES' COMMON CONCEPT FOR MBFR
FLEXIBLE. IN THE FIRST PHASE OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS,
EFFORTS WILL BE CONCENTRATED ON REDUCING AMERICAN AND
SOVIET FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE. AIR FORCES AND NUCLEAR
ARMS WILL BE EXCLUDED FROM THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE TIME
BEING. IN VIEW OF THE EXISTING "ASYMMETRY" OF NATO AND
WARSAW PACT FORCES, AGREEMENT WILL BE SOUGHT ON REDUCING
THE TROOPS OF THE TWO SUPER POWERS PERCENTAGE-WISE.
REDUCTIONS BY UP TO 15 PERCENT ON BOTH SIDES ARE NOT
EXCLUDED.

AS EFFORTS ARE AIMED AT REDUCING THE OFFENSIVE ARMS
POTENTIAL, THE NATO COUNTRIES WILL INSIST ON WITHDRAWAL
OF A MAXIMUM OF SOVIET TANK UNITS FROM CENTRAL EUROPE.
IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE SOVIETS WILL PRESS FOR
MAXIMUM REDUCTION OF US TROOP PRESENCE OR FOR INCLUDING
FBS INTO THE NEGOTIATIONS. IN ANY CASE, NATO IS
DETERMINED TO ESTABLISH TIES BETWEEN THE FIRST AND THE
SECOND PHASE OF MBFR NEGOTIATIONS AT THE VERY BEGINNING.
IN THE SECOND PHASE, LOCAL FORCES WILL BE INCLUDED INTO
THE NEGOTIATIONS.

HUNGARY'S SPECIAL STATUS IN REGARD TO MBFR HAS NOT YET
BEEN FULLY CLARIFIED. INDICATIONS ARE THAT HUNGARY WILL
BE AFFECTED ONLY BY AGREEMENTS ON "CONSTRAINTS," I.E.,
RESTRICTION OF MILITARY MOVEMENTS. CONSTRAINTS WOULD,
FOR INSTANCE, PREVENT HUNGARY FROM BEING USED AS AN AREA
OF DEPLOYMENT OR AN AREA FOR STATIONING TROOPS TO BE
WITHDRAWN FROM OTHER COUNTRIES. CONSTRAINTS AND VERI-

FICATION WILL PLAY A MAJOR PART IN THE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. AS FAR AS THE FRG IS CONCERNED, CONSTRAINTS AND CBMS ARE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST BECAUSE THEY PROVIDE A MEANS OF PREVENTING RESTRICTION OF THE MBFR AREA TO THE TWO GERMAN STATES. SUCH RESTRICTION WOULD SMACK OF NEUTRALIZATION OF GERMANY AND WOULD JEOPARDIZE COMMON EUROPEAN DEFENSE POLICY AND EUROPEAN UNION. END TEXT.

3. DIE WELT (BERNT CONRAD): BEGIN TEXT: IN VIEW OF BONN QUARTERS, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT MUTUAL FORCE RELIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DUCTIONS ARE NOT RESTRICTED IN PRINCIPLE TO SOVIET AND AMERICAN FORCES, THAT THE MBFR AREA IS NOT RESTRICTED TO THE TWO PARTS OF GERMANY, AND THAT A LIMIT FOR SUCH REDUCTIONS IS ESTABLISHED LEST NATO STRATEGY BE JEOPARDIZED. DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS IN BONN ATTRIBUTE PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE TO EXISTING "DISPARITIES" BETWEEN EAST AND WEST RESULTING FROM THE GEOGRAPHIC SITUATION AND FROM NUMERICAL SUPERIORITY OF WARSAW PACT TROOPS. END TEXT.

4. SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG: BEGIN TEXT: BONN GOVERNMENT QUARTERS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE COMMON NATO POSITION ON MBFR. HOWEVER, THEY POINTED OUT ONCE MORE THAT RESTRICTION OF THE MBFR AREA TO THE TWO GERMAN STATES WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE. THIS REFLECTS CONTINUING CONCERN IN BONN LEST US-SOVIET INTERESTS LEAD TO BILATERAL AGREEMENT OVER THE HEADS OF THE RESPECTIVE ALLIANCE PARTNERS. END TEXT.
HILLENBRAND

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